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Celebrate Responsibly This Holiday Season

December is California's Drunk and Drugged Driving (3D) Prevention Month

(Sacramento, CA) — The California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) and the California Highway Patrol (CHP) will join efforts with the California Restaurant Association to kick-off California's annual **Drunk and Drugged Driving (3D) Prevention Month** and encourage Californians to celebrate responsibly this holiday season.

Last year in California, 1,233 people were killed and more than 30,000 were injured in alcohol-related crashes – nearly a 4 percent increase over 1999.

While California remains a leader in fighting DUI-related crashes, more work lies ahead to help the country achieve the national goal of reducing alcohol-related deaths nationwide to 11,000 by the 2005.

Throughout December, the OTS and CHP will work closely with law enforcement officials, schools, businesses and community-based organizations to continue to raise awareness about the perils of driving under the influence.

The public is encouraged to participate in this year's campaign by pledging to celebrate responsibly with activities such as designating a driver, serving as a responsible host at holiday celebrations, providing non-alcoholic drinks to celebrants and never serving alcohol to minors. The cooperative efforts of individuals in every community will help ensure that the anti-DUI message is spread throughout the state.

For more information regarding California's 3D Month campaign, please visit www.ots.ca.gov.

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**Statistics based on California Highway Patrol 2000 provisional data.*